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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 05482 300813Z

15
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 106683
R 300720Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2818
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
CINCPAC
COMUSTDC TAIPEI
CHMAAG TAIPEI
327TH AD

S E C R E T TAIPEI 5482

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TW
SUBJ: FUTURE USE OF TAINAN AIR BASE

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: I BELIEVE USAF PROPOSAL TO MAINTAIN A GROUP OF 300 AT TAINAN AIR BASE FOR WAR RESERVE MATERIEL STORAGE IS UNNECESSARY, WASTEFUL AT A TIME WHEN PRESIDENT HAS CALLED FOR MAXIMUM BUDGETARY SAVINGS, AND POLITICALLY MOST INADVISABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. I UNDERSTAND USAF HAS PROPOSED MAINTAINING A GROUP OF 300 AT TAINAN AIR BASE FOR WAR RESERVE MATERIEL STORAGE PURPOSES. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT A STUDY CONDUCTED BY MLITARY OFFICERS CONCERNED HAS DETERMINED IT IS COMPLETELY FEASIBLE AND HIGHLY COST EFFECTIVE TO CONTRACT WITH GROC FOR SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE OF THIS WAR RESERVE MATERIEL, WITH ONLY A FEW-- PERHAPS LESS THAN 20 -- US PERSONNEL
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OPERATING AS QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTORS. ESSENTIALLY,

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THIS IS NOW THE SITUATION AT CHIAYI, EXCEPT THAT THE QUALITY CONTROL PEOPLE ARE RESIDENT AT CCK AIRBASE AND COMMUTE.

3. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, TO PLAN FOR 40-50 PEOPLE FOR PERIMETER SECURITY, ANOTHER 40-50 FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE, AND 200 OR SO TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT, RUN SCHOOLS AND OPERATE PX'S, CAN BE DESCRIBED ONLY AS UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL. CERTAINLY, IT SEEMS IN CONTRADICTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS TO SAVE EVERY POSSIBLE BUDGETARY DOLLAR.

4. ENTIRELY ASIDE FROM THESE CONSIDERATIONS OF COST EFFECTIVENESS, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE POLITICAL INADVISABILITY OF THE USAF PROPOSAL. TO ENVISAGE A PERMANENT OR EVEN SEMI-PERMANENT US MILITARY INSTALLATION ON TAIWAN IS DIRECTLY COUNTER TO THE SHANGHI COMMUNIQUE. HAVING MANAGED TO SECURE PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO'S UNDERSTANDING AND ACQUIESCENCE IN TAINAN AFB GOING INTO CARETAKER STATUS--EXPLAINED AS MEANING A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE--BY THE END OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR, I CONSIDER IT MOST INADVISABLE TO SEE THAT NUMBER VASTLY INFLATED AND THEN AT SOME FUTURE TIME, BECAUSE OF OUR OBJECTIVES AS STATED IN THE COMMUNIQUE, TO HAVE TO RE-OPEN A HEALED WOUND AND EXPLAIN A NEW DECISION TO REMOVE FORCES FROM TAINAN. IT SEEMS TO ME MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE TO GIVE THE PREMIER EVERY EVIDENCE THAT OUR ACTIONS ARE TAKEN IN A FULLY PLANNED, FULLY COORDINATED AND HIGHLY DEPENDABLE MANNER. DECISIONS TAKEN AND THEN HASTILY UNTAKEN OR REVISED ARE TO BE AVOIDED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, AIR FORCE, MILITARY BASES, TAINAN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TAIPEI05482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740240-1008
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974082/aaaaabjt.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUTURE USE OF TAINAN AIR BASE CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TW, US
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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